

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6204

S E C R E T SANA 2329

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARIAL VISIT TO YAR

1. AMBASSADOR SCOTES HAS ASKED ME TO RENEW SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CONSIDER VISIT TO SANA DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST.

2. BELIEVE YARG WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO RECEIVE SECRETARY IN SANA. PRESFRENT HAMDI IS STEADILY MOVING HIS GOVERNMENT INTO NEW AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH USG AT EXPENSE OF TIES WITH USSR AND ARAB RADCFAL STATES. FOR THIS REASON, AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS NEW POSITION OF DOMESTIC STRENGTH, I BELIEVE HAMDI WOULD WARMLY WELCOME PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SECRETARY, PARTICULARLY IN CAPITAL CITY OF YAR. SAUDIS, WHO HAVE THROWN THEIR WEIGHT HEAVILY BEHIND YARG CONTRAL GOVT IN GENERAL AND HAMDI IN PARTICULAR, WOULD ALSO WELCOME SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SANA.

-. AS FOR USG MOTIVES FOR SUCH A VISIT, I SEE THREE.

4. FIRST, USG WILL SHORTLY ADD SAUDI-FINANCED US ARMS SALES PROGRAM TO OUR ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM ALREADY MOUNTED HERE. THCF MARKS IMPORTANT NEW STATE IN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM USG EFFORT TO RE-ORIENT YARG AND SAG FROM INIMICAL RELATIONSHIP OF 60'S TO PRESENT REGIONAL COOPERATION WHICH UNDERWRITES SECURITY OF ARABIAN PENINSULA. AS NUMBER OF YEMEN WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF CONTINUE TO RISE TO PERHAPS HALF OF

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LABOR FORCE HERE, WE HAVE GROWING INTEREST IN GOOD WILL, COOPER-

ATION AND PROSPERITY OF YARG. FOR ITS OWN PART YARG SEES ITSELF THREATENED FROM SOUTH YEMEN AND HAS EVEN LARGER INTEREST IN USG FRIENDSHIP. YARG IS THEREFORE STEADILY ADJUSTING ITS DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL POSITIONS TO MORE CLOSELY ALIGN ITSELF WITH US. VISIT BY SECRETARY, WILL MAINTAIN AND INCREASE MOMENTUM OF GOOD RELATIONS.

5. SECOND, YARG IS ALTERNATIVE TO PDRY IN MINDS OF NORTH AND SOUTH YEMENIS--WHO COLLECTIVELY FORM HALF OF POPULATION OF PENINSULA. PDRY HAS HERETOFORE BEEN SHRILL AND IMPLACABLE CRITIC OF USG, AVID MEMBER OF REJECTIONIST FRONT, SUPPORTER OF REVOLUTION THROUGHOUT PENINSULA (AND ESPECIALLY IN DHOFAR) AND BASE FOR SOVIET OPERATIONS IN INDIAN OCEAN. UNDER PRESSURE OF MODERATE ARAB STATES, HOWEVER, PDRY LEADERSHIP IS SUFFERING MORE AND MORE DOUBT ABOUT CONTINUING ITS PRESENT COURSE OF ACTION. SECRETARIAL VISIT TO YAR WOULD REINFORCE FROM ANOTHER QUARTER THE ARAB APPEAL TO PDRY TO JOIN THE MIDDLE EAST MAINSTREAM. SECRETARY COULD USE VISIT TO GO BEYOND WHAT WE RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH EGYPTIANS TO PDRY ABOUT RELATIONS AND USE YARG TO GET MESSAGE TO PDRY THAT WE DESIRE TO TURN FROM STERILE CONFRONTATION TO NEGOTIATIONS, TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES, TO FOSTER PEACE, TO PRESS DEVELOPMENT AND WHERE USEFUL TO PLAY DISINTERESTED BROKER'S ROLE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL DISPUTES. IN PRESENT STATE OF DIVIDED COUNSELS IN ADEN THIS MESSAGE COULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY POTENTIAL MODERATES THERE, AND TEND TO SEPARATE THEM FURTHER FROM DIE-HARD RADICALS.

6. FINALLY, LONG-TERM SOVIET PRE-EMINENCE IN AFFAIRS OF YARG IS ON THE WANE, WHILE OUR ROLE IS WAXING. OVER LONGER-TERM THERE ARE GROUNDS TO HOPE THAT SAME PHENOMENON WILL OCCUR IN SOUTH YEMEN--IF WE GIVE EVENTS A DISCREET PUSH. THE LONG TERM IS ADMITTEDLY UNPREDICTABLE, BUT THE ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THE SOVIETS OF A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO YAR BY THE SECRETARY WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE. BY CONTRAST SAUDIS WOULD SUPPORT A SECRETARIAL VISIT HERE AS ANOTHER AND FURTHER ECLIPSE OF SOVIET FORTUNES IN THE PENINSULA.

7. THERE IS ONE FURTHER POSSIBILITY WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH TRIP TO SANA: A MEETING WITH SOUTH YEMENI
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OFFICIALS. IF PDRY IS AS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS ISOLATION AS IT APPEARS TO BE, THEY MIGHT SEEK TO MEET WITH SECRETARY IN SANA OR SUBSEQUENTLY IN CAIRO. I APPRECIATE THE RELUCTANCE OF DEPARTMENT IN TAKING INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER. HOWEVER DIRECT MEETING WITH LEADING PDRY OFFICIAL WOULD GREATLY RPT GREATLY INCREASE IMPACT DISCUSSED IN PARA 5 ABOVE.

8. BEYOND POLITICS, SANA IS EXOTIC CITY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE

FASCINATING RESPITE FROM RIGORSNOF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. IT IS
ROUGHLY HOUR AND A HALF FLIGHT FROM JIDDA, OR THREE HOURS FROM
CAIRO, AND THUS COULD EASILY BECOME EITHER ONE DAY OR OVERNIGHT
TRIP.

9. PRESIDENT HAMDI IS DEPARTING TOMORROW FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN
DAYS ON SWING THROUGH IRAQ, JORDAN, SYRIA, BAHRAIN, IRAN AND
SAUDI ARABIA, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE BACK HERE AROUND SEPT 1.
APPRECIATE THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN
COMPLETED BY THAT TIME, AND SECRETARY MAY DEPART AREA BEFORE
THEN TO KEEP OTHER APPOINTMENTS. IF NOT, HOWEVER, DIVERSION
TO SANA AT THAT TIME MIGHT FIT IN WITH NEEDS AND INTERESTS
OF SECRETARY.
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